

Changes in California Boating Law
Effective January 1, 2005, California boating law specifies that:

CARBON MONOXIDE

It is a violation of California law to operate a vessel's motor or generator while a person is: (1) teak surfing, platform dragging, or bodysurfing behind the vessel, or (2) while someone is occupying or holding onto the swim platform, swim deck, swim step or swim ladder, except for a very brief period of time when a person is assisting with the docking or departure of the vessel, while exiting or entering the vessel, or while the vessel is engaged in law enforcement or emergency rescue activity.

Teak surfing or platform dragging means holding onto the swim platform, swim deck, swim step, swim ladder, or any portion of the exterior of the transom of a motorized vessel for any amount of time while the vessel is underway at any speed.

MOTORBOAT NOISE

California's Motorboat Noise Law is extended to include coastal waters up to one mile from shore. In addition, new testing procedures (SAE J2005 and SAE J1970) will be used by peace officers to test motorboat noise levels. The new noise limits are not more restrictive than previous law, but allow for easier and safer testing.